THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) Due to unfavourable weather conditions during the last three years in a row, fertilizer consumption has been below the targetted levels. As a result, the stocks of indigenous fertilizers have gone up. The prices of fertilizers paid by farmers are statutorily controlled and uniform thruoghout the country; it is much less than the cost of production. Moreover, the current prices are the same as prevailed in 1981.

(c) with a view to providing relief to the manufacturers, steps have been taken to ensure strict price discipline. It has also been decided not to release the imported stocks for sale, so long as indigenous stocks are available for meeting the entire demand. Besides, the import of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers during the year has been drastically reduced.

Diversion of ICAR grants by agriculture Universities

779. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the agriculture universities are often diverting grants given to them by the ICAR, violating prescribed guidelines;

(b) if so, how many universities have been found to be involved in such diversion of grants; and

(c) whether Government propose to empower the ICAR to deal with such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Diversion of funds meant for Central Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

780. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received many complaints of diversion of funds meant for Central Schemes like IRDP and NREP by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government have investigated into the complaints and, if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India in his report for 1983-84 pointed out among other things diversion of funds intended for IRDP for other purposes in Andhra Pradesh also. These related to purchase of lorry by Andhra Pradesh Meat & Poultry Development Corporation, van by Fisheries Department in Eluru DRDA, and jeep, milk tanker and machinery for pre-packing in Karimnagar DRDA.

The Government of India requested the State Government to look into the matter. The State Government in their reply stated that assistance for purchase of a lorry is a permissible item of infrastructure, linked with beneficiaries of the poultry complexes for supply of feed and collection of eggs by the Andhra Pradesh Meat & Poultry Development Corporation; and the fisheries van also had direct linkage with beneficiaries of IRDP for supply of feed and collection of fish. The items of expenditure in the Eluru DRDA were ratified/approved in the State Level Sanctioning Committee. For the items listted against Karimnagar, the State Government has stated that the expenditure was needed for infrastructural assistance for improving the marketing facility for IRDP beneficiaries and hence the funds were ratified by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.